



Vision Implementation Project Updates

September 19, 2001

Vision Group A- Funding

The Funding Committee last met on May 22, 2001 at the EMS Authority. Their next meeting is scheduled for September 25, 2001 in Los Angeles.

The group is in the process of writing a "White Paper" that will be descriptive of the current funding for EMS in California. It will include information on Federal/State legislative background for EMS in California, patterns of EMS funding in the State, and the difficulty in agreeing upon value statewide. This will essentially be a proposal for research to various foundations, and will define needs and possible solutions for the funding crisis in California. The purpose of the call for research is to gain data for the EMS system that define the cost benefit variations outcomes.

The Funding Committee also reworked its' objectives for the gray book, "Making Vision a Reality".

Vision Group B- Governance

The Governance Committee met on August 23, 2001 in Los Angeles. Their next meeting will be scheduled in October or November.

An update was given on the League of California Cities and California State Association of Counties (CSAC) study. The report from the consultants has been turned in to the two organizations. CSAC and the League will meet to discuss the report the week of August 27th. It is unlikely that a product will be available for the September Commission meeting.

Steve Andriese presented on the LEMSA Assessment process, and requested input from the Governance Committee. This is objective 4 for Governance. Some of the issues discussed were mandatory v. voluntary, who administers the program, and the complexity of the process. The Governance committee discussed the possibility of piloting the assessment, budget concerns, and the position of the counties that this assessment must be voluntary. Steve will compose a list of options for the Committee to review.

The Committee also reviewed the matrix of responsibility (Objective 2), and modified this to include only an EMS provider column, and an EMS Agency column. This matrix will be modified for the next meeting to further define the medical direction portion.

Chuck Baucom and Ron Blaul met with the EMDAC scope of practice committee on objectives 12, 13, and 14. They developed a draft flowchart for decision-making on new items, which includes a multidisciplinary committee providing feedback on issues. Chuck and Ron will try to schedule a meeting with the scope of practice committee to discuss the decision process on existing items and trial studies.

The Committee also put together a subgroup to begin discussion on Objective 3, EMSA Director Qualifications. The group will include Cal-ACEP representatives and CMA representatives.

Vision Group C- Education and Personnel

The Education and Personnel Committee met on July 10, and their next meeting is scheduled for September 26, 2001.

The Committee has begun work on its rural objective, objective 6. The Vision office has done research for the Committee on needs and availability of EMS education in rural areas. Debbie Becker created a survey for LEMSAs on rural EMS education that has been refined by the Vision office and will be presented for comments on the draft at the next meeting.

Nancy Steiner gave an update on the flowcharts explaining the current process for local optional scope of practice and trial study processes. They are also working in conjunction with the Governance Committee. These changes will be reflected in the guidelines as time progresses. The draft should be completed by the next meeting, and forwarded to the Vision Leadership Team.

The Committee has also been working with the EMS Authority on the EMT-I regulations, and providing input on the modular format proposed for the EMT-II (Objective 6). The Committee has been working in conjunction with the EMT-I task force on decisions on certification testing, certification process, and recertification (National Registry vs. CPS). These decisions will be forwarded to the Education Committee from the EMT-I task force.

The group has completed recommendations to adopt the terminology of EMT-B, EMT-I, and EMT-P to be consistent with national standards (Objective 3). They have also completed brochures on careers in EMS explaining the needs and expectations of employers and individuals seeking jobs as paramedics (Objective 11), and has recommended the adoption of the U.S. D.O.T. as the minimum curriculum for all levels of prehospital personnel (Objective 3).

Vision Group D- System Evaluation and Improvement

The System Evaluation and Improvement Committee met on August 24, 2001, and is scheduled to meet on October 26, 2001.

Bonnie Sinz gave an update from the Data Ad Hoc Committee which is offering the NHTSA "Leadership Guide to QI/Data Workshop" on September 18-19th.

The Data Ad Hoc Committee has been working with the Paramedic Task force to develop QI guidelines, incorporating the NHTSA QI leadership guide, the Baldrige categories, and the EMS agenda for the future.

The System Evaluation and Improvement Committee provided questions on the specifics of the revision of the EMS System Standards and Guidelines, providing input that they need to be more functional to implement. The Committee will be meeting to review the guidelines. Miranda will be meeting with EMSA staff to clarify some issues for the Committee on revision.

The Committee is still waiting for the legislation on discovery protection for QI to be implemented. An update on this status will be given at the next meeting.

The Data Set is near completion through the Data Ad Hoc group, and corrections will be brought to the December meeting. After revision, the document will be sent out for review.

The State Data System Design Project has developed an overall data sheet. The feasibility study has been approved by DHS.

The group will have a comprehensive look at the performance core indicators at the end of September. Craig asked for input at the next meeting.

The group discussed the LEMSA assessment document. They discussed the question of making the survey mandatory vs. voluntary, administration, and the complexity of the process. The group recommended the inclusion of the evaluation by the EMS authority, have an adjustable time for assessment, reassess cost for the project, and include options along with recommendations. They also recommended making the survey voluntary. Steve will make the changes, and send it out to the group for review.

Vision Group E - Access

The Access Committee has not met since the February 16th meeting in Corona. They are scheduled to meet on October, 2001. The EMD subcommittee has met multiple times since the February 16th meeting, and is working on an EMD document that will be presented in draft form to the committee at the September 17th meeting. The major work to date has been focused on defining the scope of EMD medical oversight and regulatory authority. Given the current situation in Governance Committee, the EMD Sub-Committee has been trying to reach consensus on acceptable language that would allow the EMD Standards to be completed and agreed on by all stakeholder groups. The EMD Sub-Committee will continue with their efforts on the EMD Standard document while attempting to define any outstanding issues as clearly as possible if unresolved. The remaining objectives, which the Access Committee had originally decided should be postponed until the completion of the work on the EMD Standards, will be revisited at the next Full Committee meeting scheduled for October. In addition, the Access Committee has determined that the recent wireless 9-1-1 developments will require a formal liaison position be established within the Access Committee and the Comcare Alliance to ensure that the Access Committee is kept informed of current developments with in the wireless 9-1-1 environment.

Vision Group F – Prevention & Public Education

The group met on June 18, 2001, and their next meeting is scheduled for September 24, 2001. The Prevention Committee reported that the System Evaluation and Improvement Committee accepted the safety equipment data elements they developed as part of their data elements, but the environmental factors they had developed had been rejected. Bonnie Sinz will return to the System Evaluation and Improvement Committee to ask them to reconsider their position. The Prevention group is strongly supporting prevention elements on the statewide data set (Objective 3).

The data collection templates are ready for the EMSA website to link to the Injury Prevention Web. The templates include: pedestrian struck, pool drowning, child motor vehicle crash, burn prevention, poison prevention, firearms, and chemical burns (Objective 3).

The Prevention registry is near completion, and will list components of prevention programs throughout the state. This will be a resource for other prevention programs, and will be available through the EMSA website. The Committee will finalize the registry, and present this at the next meeting (Objective 6).